



17 January 2002

Paul Peronard
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
999 – 18th Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Dear Mr. Peronard;

I am writing to you regarding the actions you agency has taken during the stabilization projects on Rainy Creek and the Kootenai River near Libby, Montana. I represent the Kootenai River Network, a non-profit organization in the Kootenai River Basin concerned with water quality issues and fish and wildlife habitat conservation and rehabilitation. Our group is composed of employees of the U.S. Forest Service, Plum Creek Timber Company, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and concerned citizens.

We are writing to express our desire to arrange a meeting on site with you to discuss mitigation for the activities that have been completed both on Rainy Creek and on the Kootenai River. We believe that it is possible to restore habitat value to both sites for fisheries and wildlife, and still maintain the original intent of the work that you've completed there. As the project now stands, there is very little value to fisheries or wildlife, and the vertical stability of Rainy Creek near the mouth is very questionable.

We concur with the comments forwarded to you by the Lincoln Conservation District Board of Supervisors in November, 2001. We would appreciate having you out on site to discuss possible remedies. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Greg Hoffman
Watershed Coordinator / Executive Director
Kootenai River Network
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